

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 03352 01 OF 02 281626Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----023698 281628Z /40

O 281600Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6992
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 NICOSIA 3352

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, CY
SUBJECT: CYPRUS MISSING PERSONS

REF: (A) NICOSIA 3338, (B) STATE 306553, (C) N
COSIA 3226

1. I MET WITH TURKISH AMBASSADOR ONHON FOR TWO HOURS
DEC 28, FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM TURKEY. ONHON DESCRIBED
HIS WEEK'S CONSULTATION AS VERY FRUITFUL. HE REVIEWED
MEETINGS HE HAD WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK, FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL,
ELEKDAG, SENATE SPEAKER SIRRI ATALAY, AND TURKES, IN HIS ROLE
AS CHAIRMAN OF CYPRUS COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

2. THE FIRST PORTION OF OUR CONVERSATION DEALT WITH THE
THREE TIERS OF US-TURKISH BILATERAL MEETINGS IN BRUSSELS.
ONHON HAD READ ALL THE TURKISH MEMORANDA WHILE IN ANKARA.

3. WE THEN DISCUSSED MISSING PERSONS FOR ALMOST AN
HOUR. ONHON HAD REVIEWED THIS EXTENSIVELY
IN ANKARA CONVERSATIONN, INCLUDING HIS PRIVATE HOUR
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WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK. HE SUMMARIZED THESE
CONVERSATIONS BY SAYING GOT, AT ALL LEVELS, WANTS
AGREEMENT ON MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE AND PUTS THIS
HIGH ON ITS LIST OF ACTIONS DESIGNED TO BE HELPFUL ON
CYPRUS. THE TROUBLE (AS AMB SPIERS HAS REPORTED) IS
THAT GOT IS STUCK ON WORKING PAPER #3, REV 3, FOR
WHICH APPROVAL WAS OBTAINED ONLY AFTER THE MOST

EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION AND ENDORSEMENT, INCLUDING PRESIDENT, PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER, AND CHIEF OF TGS. ELEKDAG, IN PARTICULAR, FEELS THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CANNOT MAKE THIS CIRCLE AGAIN, ESPECIALLY IN THE MIDST OF A GOVERNMENT CRISIS.

4. ONHON, ON THE OTHER HAND, TOLD ME THAT HE CONSIDERS THE LATEST LANGUAGE OF WORKING PAPER #3, REV 4, BOTH REASONABLE AND SAFE, PARTICULARLY WHEN TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH POSITION OF ICRC. ONHON EXPLAINED THAT, THREE WEEKS AFTER IT SHOULD HAVE DONE SO, GOT FINALLY INSTRUCTED ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN GENEVA TO MEET WITH THE ICRC. THIS HAD PRODUCED WHAT ONHON DESCRIBED AS AN ICRC "PROCES-VERBAL", IN FRENCH, WHICH REACHED NICOSIA BY CABLE DEC 27 AND AFTER TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH HAD BEEN GIVEN TO DENKTASH THE SAME EVENING. IN ONHON'S VIEW, ICC'S FORMAL POSITION PUTS QUITE A NEW LIGHT ON THIS AFFAIR. FOR INSTANCE, ONHON NOTED, CURRENT US LANGUAGES CARRIES A SAFE-GUAHD WITH REGARD TO PARA TWELVE (DISINTERMENT) GIVEN REFERENCE TO ICRC "CUSTOMARY PROCEDURES", AND THE SAME FOR SUPPLEMENTARY PARA ONE (MAJORITY DECISION), GIVEN THE ADDITIONAL SAFETY INHERENT IN THE FINAL SENTENCE OF THAT PARA.

5. ONHON INFORMED ME THAT HE HAS SCHEDULED A FULL REVIEW WITH DENKTASH FOR AFTERNOON DEC 29, AND,
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REGARDLESS OF THE ANKARA POSITION, WILL DO HIS BEST TO CONVINCE DENKTASH THAT PRESENT LANGUAGE PLUS ICRC POSITION MEET HIS CONCERNS. ONHON ADVISED THAT CHELIK RETURNS TO NICOSIA EVENING DEC 28, BUT OBSERVED THAT THE EXPECTS LITTLE HELP FROM CHELIK WITH DENKTASH ON MISSING PERSONS ISSUE. CHELIK, ONHON OBSERVED, LIKES TO TRY TO PLEASE HIS AUDIENCE BUT IS LACKING IN RELIABILITY AND FOLLOW-THROUGH.

6. I GAVE ONHON DEPT'S THINKING AS CONTAINED IN REF B, WHICH HE WILL ALSO USE WITH DENKTASH.

7. I RECAPITULATED FOR ONHON MY CONVERSATION OF DEC 20 WITH DENKTASH (REF C), ALTHOUGH HE HAD ALREADY RECEIVED THIS BY CABLE. I REFERRED TO IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO EARLIEST AGREEMENT RUNNING THROUGH US HANDS. THIS WOULD, INTER ALIA, ENABLE WALDHEIM DURING JAN 14-16 VISIT TO WELCOME AND ENDORSE. I SAID THESE TWO STEPS WULD FACILITATE A THIRD: ISSUANCE OF AN INVITATION TO DENKTASH TO VISIT CLIFFORD. ONHON AGREED ON THE NEED FOR EARLY BILATERAL IGREEMENT BUT EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF WALDHEIM COMING TO THE THREE CAPITALS IN

MID-JANUARY. GOT HAS USG VIEWS ON HOW THE VISIT CAN BE
TURNED TO USEFUL PURPOSE BUT THINKS THE POLITICAL
SITUATION IN ANKARA MAKES POSTPONEMENT DESIRABLE.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----023768 281636Z /40

O 281600Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE
WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6993
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 NICOSIA 3352

EXDIS

8. ONHON THEN ADVISED ME OF ANOTHER TRACK WHICH IS UNDER
VERY SECRET DISCUSSION BUT WHICH ALSO MIGHT RELATE
HELPFULLY TO THE MISSING PERSONS, THE IDEA ORIGINATING
FROM HIM, GOT IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARDS DENKTASH
WRITING KYPRIANOU THE SAME KIND OF LETTER HE DID
TO MAKARIOS LAST JANUARY, INVITING HIM TO MEET UNDER A
NEUTRAL, UN UMBRELLA. THIS IDEA HAD BEEN ENDORSED BY
DEMIREL, BUT GIVEN ITS IMPORTANCE, IT IS AGREED IN
ANKARA THAT IT MUST ALSO BE VETTED BY THE NEW
GOVERNMENT BEFORE FURTHER DECISIONS AS TO TIMING AND
EXACT NATURE OF INVITATION COULD BE TAKEN.

9. ONHON THOUGHT MISSING PERSONS MIGHT BE ONE USEFUL
SUBJECT FOR DISCUSSION AT A DENKTASH-KYPRIANOU MEETING.
I SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE MUCH BETTER TO HAVE AGREEMENT
IN FINAL FORM WELL BEFORE SUCH A MEETING. IT COULD
THEN BE A VERY POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION EITHER TO THAT
MEETING OR, IF IT SEEMED PREFERABLE, TO THE WALDHEIMT

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VISIT. ONHON AGREED.

10. AT THE CONCLUSION OF OUR MEETING, ONHON AGAIN EXPRESSED HIS
PERSONAL VIEW
THAT THE PACKAGE ON MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE
IS SAFE FOR THE TURKISH SIDE AND ASSURED ME HE WOULD DO
HIS BEST WITH DENKTASH ON DEC 29. HE AND I WILL MEET
AGAIN DEC 30 TO ASSESS WHERE MATTERS STAND BEFORE I
REAPPROACH DENKTASH. I THINK THIS IS THE BEST
PROCEDURE, SINCE IT GIVES ONHON MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY TO
TRY TO OVERCOME DENKTASH'S VERY NEGATIVE POSITIONS AT
OUR LAST TWO MEETINGS.
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